

## Editorial

Dear friends,

2023 has started on a high note for GCI, with the GCI Alliance meeting in Dakar. The energy of that meeting has driven us forward over the past months. In this newsletter we are happy to share the results that have been achieved through GCI between January and July 2023.

The GCI Alliance Annual Board meeting in Dakar brought together all GCI board members at a pivotal moment as we start shaping the future of the initiative. Throughout the 3-day meeting, GCI Alliance members discussed the results from the GCI Mid-Term Review, Ministries of Education and civil society partners shared inspiring stories on the impact of GCI on the ground, and feminists from all backgrounds sat in solidarity to support each other in their fight for gender equality. All participants expressed their enthusiasm to continue to drive forward the GCI movement for gender-transformative education!

Under the leadership of Ministries of Education, GCI continued its work to center gender equality in education sector analysis, policy and planning in GCI countries and non-GCI countries. In Mauritania, GCI finalized the gender-responsive education sector analysis and helped operationalize the gender-responsive Letter of Policy for the Education and Training Sector 2022-2032 that marked a major step forward in gender mainstreaming in education policies in the country.

GCI further advanced gender-responsive education sector planning through its [advanced training offer](#), as well as through tailored technical support to partner countries. A 3rd cohort of the GCI Communities of Practice was launched and provided a useful platform for MoE planners and practitioners to deepen their learning and share experiences with fellow ministry gender champions from across Africa.

GCI worked with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to support countries to meaningfully include gender equality in priority sector reforms through their partnership compacts. This support reached GCI countries such as Nigeria and Chad and non-GCI countries, such as Guinea and Ivory Coast. The [GES Toolkit](#) was further rolled out to help Local Education Groups assess gender equality in and through education. The gender institutional diagnostics and gender analysis of the budgets supported Ministries of Education to analyze the extent to which gender equality is taken into account in their own institutions, programs and budgets.

GCI launched its very first research report on [social norms and girls' education in Sierra Leone](#), thus living up to its ambition to address social norms as the key barrier to gender equality in education. GCI has also managed to influence the global research agenda and create a space for particular research topics, such as [women in school leadership](#) and the development of early warning systems to prevent school failure in Mozambique and Sierra Leone with a focus on girls school drop out. GCI's civil society partners ANCEFA, Plan International and FAWE continued their work on the ground to transform harmful gender norms and advocate for gender-transformative education. GCI also launched its very first national Youth Coalitions for Gender-Transformative Education in Niger and Mali, creating a platform for young feminists to learn, co-create and participate in the education sector dialogue. As GCI moves towards the end of its first phase, we are strengthening our partnerships to ensure the future of the initiative. A new [advocacy brief](#) summarizes why GCI continues to be relevant and to be supported. Now more than ever we need strong joint action to counter the growing backlash against gender equality and ensure all girls and boys reach their full potential. GCI is committed to continue its work to promote true gender-transformative education!

Thank you for your enthusiasm, energy and commitment.



Eline Versluys, GCI Lead,  
UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)



Fabricia Devignes,  
GCI Lead International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-UNESCO)

# RESULTS AND UPDATES

**Outcome 1: Improved gender equality mainstreaming in and through education led and implemented by Ministries of Education in conjunction with other relevant ministries.**

## Support to the GPE Process

GCI (through UNGEI and IIEP) has established a strategic partnership with GPE to ensure effective integration of gender equality in the development and implementation of GPE partnership compacts. GCI has been supporting countries in analyzing gender equality in their education systems and integrating equality strategies within the framework of the new GPE operating model. In this context, UNGEI supported the government of Guinea to conduct a [rapid assessment on gender equality in education](#) through the Gender Equality Snapshot (GES) Toolkit. On April 27 UNGEI, in collaboration with UNICEF, organized a workshop to present the results and formulate recommendations to promote gender equality in the major reform of the education system related to the GPE financing process. UNGEI also provided expertise at the regional GPE workshop in Conakry, which brought together Guinea, Mali, and the Central African Republic, suggesting strategies to prioritize gender equality in the proposed reforms.

In Chad, the [GES rapid assessment report](#) served as a reference for the technical committee responsible for developing the GPE partnership compact, and the recommendations resulting from the GES assessment were taken into account during the elaboration of the compact. IIEP-UNESCO also supported the Compact development process, through technical comments on an intermediary draft in addition to the 3-day workshop organized in September 2022.

**"As part of the development of this compact, the GES assessment was taken into account to justify the priority reform. This has reassured us because great importance is given to gender equality in the document."**

Ms. Fatime Gattibe Tabo, Director of Girls' Education Development and Gender Promotion, Ministry of Education, Chad

In Nigeria, IIEP-UNESCO is supporting the development of the partnership compact as a Task Team member, mobilizing GCI expertise to support gender mainstreaming in compact strategic priorities.

In Côte d'Ivoire, IIEP-UNESCO provided technical leadership to the development of the Partnership Compact in support of the ministry of education and the local education group. Gender equality has been featured throughout the reform, through generic and gender-specific measures to reinforce learning outcomes for boys and girls in basic education.

## GES Toolkit piloted in Niger

The Ministry of National Education (MEN) of Niger and the Local Education Group (LEG), supported by UNGEI, conducted a rapid assessment of gender equality in and through education, using the GES Toolkit. In collaboration with UNICEF and the LEG, a validation workshop was organized on June 21, bringing together various education stakeholders. The assessment results will guide the revision of the National Strategy for Accelerating Education and Training for Girls and Women (SNAEFF) and the development of the new education sector plan.

**"We cannot advance our society without promoting gender equality."**

Mr Mohamed Zeidane, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education of Niger



Abdoul Toure, GCI Country Support Coordinator, presenting results of the GES assessment in Niger

## **Analysis of the Mauritanian education sector**

With the support of GCI, IIEP-UNESCO Dakar has completed the analysis of the Mauritanian education sector. After several months of capacity building for the national team, the ESA, which will be published in the second half of the year, mainstreams gender in all its chapters and includes a specific chapter analyzing gender issues in and through education. The inclusion of gender at this stage of the process is an important step in the development of the next sector plan, which will also be supported by the IIEP.

## **Study on factors associated with girls' school failure in Mozambique**

At the request of the Ministry of Education and Human Development, the IIEP-UNESCO Dakar is currently conducting a study on factors associated with girls' school failure in Mozambique. The study focuses on learning disengagement indicators and dropout rates, as well as Early Warning Systems.

## **Institutional gender diagnosis of Niger's educational administration**

Over the past few months, IIEP-UNESCO Dakar has conducted an in-depth analysis of data collected through participatory methods to develop an institutional gender diagnosis of Niger's educational administration. The final report is expected to be available in the second half of 2023 and will contribute to the development of the new education sector plan.

## **Gender-responsive TVET course in Sierra Leone**

IIEP-UNESCO has designed an in-person course for the staff of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and Ministry of Technical and Higher Education on gender-responsive TVET, which will be delivered in the second semester of 2023.

The IIEP GCI team and the IIEP Research and Development team are currently developing, following the MBSSE's request, a study strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone education system to meet the objectives of early identification and monitoring of risks, and the prevention of school failure (measured through learning disengagement indicators and dropout rates) in vulnerable populations, chiefly girls.

## **Community of practice**

Building on the experience of two previous cohorts, IIEP-UNESCO has initiated a third cohort of the Community of Practice in Gender and Education, which will take place between June and December 2023, for alumni of the Short Course in gender-responsive educational planning, which this time comprised a group of 30 francophone education planners from 14 different countries. Based on a co-creation process, the programme will include sessions on global education monitoring data, measuring 'hard to measure' aspects of gender equality such as norm change and participatory gender audits.

# WHAT'S COMING UP?

- UNGEI will organize national GRESP workshops in Mali and Niger in October, bringing together Ministry of Education and civil society representatives.
- UNGEI will organize a regional Gender-Transformative Leadership workshop in Dakar in December, bringing together Ministry of Education and civil society representatives from GCI and non-GCI countries.
- In **Mauritania**, IIEP-UNESCO Dakar will take part in the education sector review in July, where it will lead several workshops and present the main results of the RESEN, the outline of the Financial Simulation Model and the strategic priorities for the next sector plan. The mission will also mark the launch of technical support for the education sector plan.
- In **Mauritania**, IIEP-UNESCO Dakar will organize a workshop to raise awareness on gender equality in education among members of school management committees.
- In **Mozambique**, IIEP-UNESCO will design and deliver in-person training to the Ministry of Education and Human Development staff on gender-responsive budgeting.
- In **Niger**, IIEP-UNESCO Dakar will hold workshops over the summer to analyze - in a participatory way - the results of the data collected as part of the Ministry of Education's institutional gender diagnosis, and to formulate recommendations for the future.
- In **Nigeria**, IIEP-UNESCO will work with the Federal Ministry of Education to run a pilot workshop for teams of representatives of six states to build capacity in gender-responsive education planning and management.
- In **Sierra Leone** IIEP-UNESCO will deliver an in-person course to the staff of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and Ministry of Technical and Higher Education on gender responsive TVET. This training will be followed by a second course on gender-responsive budgeting.
- In **Chad**, GCI will organize several training courses, including one to support the revision of the manual on gender mainstreaming and another to support the inclusion of gender in the management of education for the benefit of decentralized structures.
- A further edition of the **Short Course** on gender-responsive education planning will be delivered by IIEP-UNESCO between September and December, this time for candidates from anglophone African countries.
- Members of the **Community of Practice in Education and Gender** will be invited to a **one week face-to-face workshop** in Dakar, hosted by IIEP-Dakar as part of the six month programme of CPGE activities (October).

## Outcome 2: Improved education sector enabling environment in support of MoE efforts in gender equality mainstreaming in and through education.

### 2023 GCI Alliance Annual Board Meeting

The [GCI Alliance Annual Board Meeting](#) took place in Dakar, Senegal, on 28-30 March 2023. The meeting brought together around 80 GCI Alliance members, including Ministries of Education, donors, technical partners, civil society representatives and young feminists from the 8 GCI partner countries. During the 3 day-meeting, Alliance members discussed GCI results, including through the GCI Mid-Term Review, shared innovative approaches to promoting gender equality in education and reflected on GCI phase 2. Many participants expressed their enthusiasm and commitment to continue to join forces to advance gender equality in and through education.



The GCI Alliance 2023 Board participants, Ngor Diarama Hotel, Dakar

### ANCEFA, FAWE-Chad and COSOCIDE strengthen leaders' capacity to promote girls' education

The GCI Civil Society Consortium in Chad, made up of ANCEFA, FAWE-Chad and the Coalition of Social Organizations for the Development of Education (COSOCIDE)-Chad, organized a capacity-building workshop for leaders of civil society organizations from April 25 to 27, 2023, on political advocacy and community mobilization in favor of girls' enrolment and retention in schools and TVET structures.

**"CSOs have a vital role to play in policy advocacy and community mobilization in favor of girls' enrollment and retention. They should get support to make their participation dynamic and effective in the Chadian education system for the benefit of girls".**

Ms Fatimé Gatibé Tabo, Director of Girls' Education Development and Gender Promotion, Ministry of Education, Chad



Group work during the N'Djamena workshop, Chad

As a follow-up, ANCEFA and COSOCIDE organized two workshops on the same theme and objectives in Bol and Koumra (Chad) from June 3 to 4. The three workshops were attended by agents from the Ministry of Education, members of the GCI Consortium, young girls and women activists, and political authorities. As a result, relevant authorities and CSO leaders have understood the stakes involved in lifting the barriers to girls' education and have expressed their commitment to moving the lines in favor of gender equality in and through education in the Chadian education system and in their communities.

## **FAWE Mali advocates for a collective influence strategy for the inclusion of girls' education in PDSEC**

In order to include gender-transformative education in the Local, Social, Economic and Cultural Development Programs (PDSEC), FAWE-Mali organized a three-day workshop in Bamako, Mali, from 24 to 26 June, bringing together 30 participants made up of representatives from the Ministry of National Education, elected representatives from decentralized communities, civil society representatives and youth organizations. At the end of the workshop, participants had a better grasp of the concepts of gender equality, transformative education, gender-sensitive planning and budgeting, and how to integrate a gender-transformative education lens in the PDSEC.

## **Developing training and awareness-raising guides on girls' education in emergencies in Burkina Faso**

Official data indicated that during the month of February 2023, 66 educational facilities were newly closed due to the security crisis in Burkina Faso, affecting 16,810 pupils, including 9,256 girls. It was against this backdrop that Burkina Faso's Ministry of Education, (MENAPLN) and FAWE organized a two-day workshop in Ouagadougou in collaboration with UNGEI to develop two training and awareness-raising guides on girls' education in emergencies. Thirty participants from four different ministries (Education, Health, Youth, Gender), FAWE and its partners, including youth activists, UNGEI and AU-CIEFFA, took part in the workshop on 26-27 June 2023. The workshop enabled participants to gain in-depth knowledge of girls' education in emergencies in Burkina Faso, as well as to amend and finalize two guides on girls' education in emergencies.

## **Launch of the National Youth Coalition for Gender-Transformative Education in Niger**

To support youth participation in gender-responsive education sector planning, UNGEI, in collaboration with UNICEF and Transform Education, launched the first National Youth Coalition for Gender-Transformative Education in Niger, on 20 June, bringing together thirty young leaders working on gender equality in education. During the meeting participants discussed the challenges to gender equality in education in Niger and shared their own experiences and unique perspectives as gender equality activists. The Coalition will be a platform for youth participation, advocacy and mutual support and aims to become the primary youth consultation platform for the Ministry of National Education on all matters related to gender equality in education.



Participants during the workshop in Bamako, Mali



The officials at the opening ceremony of the workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

**“The guides on girls' education in emergencies that will be made available to education practitioners at the end of this workshop fully respond to the current needs of our national education system”.**

Ms Ouedraogo Aramata, Director, Access to Formal Education, MENAPLN, Burkina Faso



Members of the National Youth Coalition in Niger

## SWOT analysis on gender-responsive education planning

UNGEI and Cambridge Education conducted a study on [gender equality in education sector planning in the 8 GCI countries](#). The study looked at political will, the inclusion of gender expertise, youth voices, and social norms strategies. Based on the study results a [policy brief](#) was developed with clear recommendations for governments to improve gender-responsive education sector planning. On 19 April UNGEI and Cambridge Education hosted a [webinar](#) to present the results of the study. Over 100 participants joined in the discussion with MoE leaders, civil society representatives and young feminists on how to embed a stronger focus on gender equality in the education sector.

## Field research on social norms and girls' education in Sierra Leone

UNGEI and Dalberg Design conducted a mixed-methods field research on [social norms and girls' education in Sierra Leone](#). Based on a community dialogue model, the research analyzed how harmful gender norms influence girls' chances to learn, and identified positive pathways for change. On 7 June UNGEI and Dalberg Design hosted a [webinar](#) to present the research results, bringing together Ministry officials, donors, civil society partners and young feminists to discuss how we can address harmful gender norms and promote gender-transformative education in Sierra Leone and beyond.

## GCI Mid-Term Review and GCI Phase 2 development

An independent [mid-term review](#) of GCI's first two years of implementation was conducted by consulting firm Cayambe, between December 2022 and March 2023. The review aimed at understanding the initiative's successes and limitations, and to identify areas of improvement in planning for the future. Overall the review found that GCI has been successful in putting gender equality firmly on the education agenda and that it is filling an important niche in the 8 partner countries and beyond. Among other recommendations, the review suggested a revision of GCI's strategy for phase 2, with a stronger focus on in-country coordination and collective ownership. Based on the findings from the review and consultations with the GCI Alliance members, a concept note for GCI phase 2 has been developed and will be shared widely in the coming months.

## CSO webinar on innovative approaches to advancing gender equality

On 12 July 2023, UNGEI and the GCI CSO Consortium organized the second webinar in the learning series on civil society action within GCI. 37 civil society representatives from ANCEFA, FAWE, Plan and Girls Not Brides from 9 countries (Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Nigeria, Cameroun) participated in the webinar. GCI civil society partners shared experiences on the whole-school approach to end SRGBV, MoE influencing on gender equality in education and the impact of GCI capacity building on education programs. GCI partner Girls Not Brides shared lessons learned from their budget advocacy projects to end child marriage and promote girls' education in West and Central Africa.

# WHAT'S COMING UP?

- With the support of UNGEI, ANCEFA, Plan and FAWE will organize community engagement, advocacy and capacity building activities in the 8 GCI countries.
- A National Youth Coalition for Gender-Transformative Education will be launched in Mali.
- In October UNGEI will host the third webinar in the learning series on sharing innovations and knowledge from GCI implementation for CSO country teams

# EVENTS

## Past events

Webinar on [Gender Equality in Education Sector Planning](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education, 19 April 2023.

Webinar on [Social Norms and Girls' Education in Sierra Leone](#), UNGEI & Dalberg Design, 7 June 2023.

Webinar on [How to measure School-Related Gender Based Violence](#), UNGEI & UNESCO, 22 June 2023.

Harnessing the power of education to end gender stereotypes and harmful norms, session at Women Deliver Conference, UNGEI, GPE, UNICEF, AU/CIEFFA, Girls Not Brides, Education Plus Initiatives, Equimundo, Room to read, Transform Education, UNAIDS, VVOB, 18 July 2023, Kigali, Rwanda.

# RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

## Guidance, briefs and tools

[How is Gender Equality Included in Education Sector Planning? An analysis of power, voice and social norm change in 8 sub-saharan African countries](#) - UNGEI & Cambridge Education: policy brief.

[Gender at the Centre Initiative: a whole-system approach to gender-transformative education](#) - UNGEI & IIEP-UNESCO: advocacy brief.

[Learning Brief: Ending Gender Stereotypes in Schools](#) - UNGEI

## Reports and studies

[Formative Review of the Gender at the Centre Initiative's Activities](#) - Cayambe: an independent mid-term review of the results achieved by GCI.

[How is Gender Equality included in Education Sector Planning? An analysis of power, voice and social norm change in 8 sub-saharan African countries](#) - UNGEI & Cambridge Education: research report analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in including gender equality in education planning in the 8 GCI countries.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Burkina Faso](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Niger](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Mauritania](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.



[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Nigeria](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Sierra Leone](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Mozambique](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Chad](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[How is gender equality included in education sector planning? An analysis of power, voice and social change in Mali](#), UNGEI & Cambridge Education.

[Social Norms and Girls' Education in Sierra Leone](#) - UNGEI & Dalberg Design: research report on the influence of harmful gender norms on girls' education in Sierra Leone.

[Social Norms and Girls' Education in Sierra Leone: Summary Report](#) - UNGEI & Dalberg Design.

## BLOG AND NEWS

[Hopes, Dreams, and Gender-Transformative Action for 2023! | UNGEI](#) - Informing Education Transformers to continue leading in feminist solidarity to achieve sustainable and gender-transformative futures.

[Celebrate, Reflect, Learn & Plan | UNGEI](#) - The Gender at the Center Initiative Annual Board Meeting.

PRIORITÉ À L'ÉGALITÉ  
GENDER AT THE   
CENTRE 

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[Gender at the Centre Initiative \(UNGEI\)](#)

[Gender at the Centre Initiative \(IIEP-UNESCO Dakar\)](#)